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"REMEMBER MARCH—THE IDES OF MARCH"

The Common Cause

OF HUMANITY.

The Organ of the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies.

LAW-ABIDING.] ***Societies and Branches in the Union 561.*** [NON-PARTY.

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[The National Union does not hold itself responsible for opinions expressed in signed articles.]

Notes and News.

The Electoral Reform Bill.

Acting upon the mandate for electoral reform given by the House of Commons on March 28th, the Government have ordered the Bill to be put on the stocks, and it should be ready for introduction soon after Easter. It will be divided into three parts, dealing respectively with the Franchise, Registration, and Redistribution. Sir George Cave will have charge of it in the House of Commons.

The suggestion that proportional representation should be omitted from the Bill has given rise to widespread protest. Letters from Mr. H. G. Wells and Lord Courtney of Penwith were followed in *The Times* of April 2nd by a letter from Earl Grey protesting against the assumption "That the proportional representation proposals embodied in the recommendations of the Speaker's Conference form no essential part of the scheme unanimously recommended to Parliament. On the contrary, so essential were they regarded, that unless the Speaker's Conference had adopted them, I would have withdrawn from the Conference: others would have done the same. The Conference would have broken down."

Lord Parmoor, in a letter on April 3rd, urges the necessity, so repeatedly emphasised in the course of the House of Commons debate, of accepting the Speaker's compromise as a whole. "Proportional Representation has been unanimously recommended by the Speaker's Electoral Conference as an integral factor in their scheme of electoral reform. There is good reason to believe that the adoption of the report was largely dependent on the acceptance of this principle. Proportional representation is unquestionably a vital ingredient in what has been properly designated as a dovetailed scheme."

A letter from Mr. John Humphrys, of the Proportional Representation Society, points out the importance of the Imperial aspects of proportional representation.

A Speaker's Conference on the House of Lords.

Following upon the suggestion made by Mr. Walter Long that the question of the constitution and powers of the House of Lords should be referred to a Conference, Mr. Bonar Law stated on April 2nd (in reply to a question from Sir George Younger) that the Government recognises the urgency of this subject, and is sympathetically considering the suggestion.

There are two main questions which would probably be submitted to such a Conference. It would be asked to decide in the first place, what changes are desirable in the hereditary constitution of the Second Chamber; and, in the second place, what are to be the powers granted to the Second Chamber for revision of the decisions of the House of Commons. As in the case of the Conference on Electoral Reform, the Government would sanction the holding of the Conference, and would propose legislation on the lines of the recommendations arrived at.

The Protection of Girls.

The Criminal Law Amendment Bill, 1917, was reported to the House after a very long Committee stage. On March 29th, the Home Secretary brought forward a new clause somewhat on the lines of one of Mr. Dickinson's amendments, giving the power to magistrates to commit girls under 18 who are convicted of solicitation and other offences to accredited and inspected reformatories or rescue homes. This is an extension of a provision of the Childrens Act, which gives similar powers in the case of girls under 16. The Committee evidently felt a strong desire to do something to reclaim young prostitutes, and the partial precedent of the Childrens Act was no doubt a factor in the general agreement which led to the passing of this clause without a division. It is undoubtedly right that some constructive reform should be attempted, but it should be done only under the most careful safeguards. To detain these young girls is to proclaim them as unfit to decide their own lives, and is quite inconsistent with the idea that they are competent to consent to their own ruin. It is most necessary then that the age of consent should be raised also to 18, and that the law with regard to solicitation should be made equal as between men and women. If this is not done on the Report stage of the Bill, the new clause will be a grave injustice. The great majority of the Standing Committee was strongly in favour of raising the age of consent, and the injustice of convicting women on the uncorroborated word of a police officer is also well understood.

The State and the Drink Traffic.

In his reply to Scottish Deputations on State purchase and prohibition on March 29th, the Prime Minister gave an indication of the direction which the Government policy on the drink question is now taking. He repudiated the idea that State purchase and prohibition were mutually antagonistic, and pointed out that, on the contrary, State purchase might prove the most direct road to prohibition in England and Wales, while in Scotland it might be a great aid to the Local Option Act, which, under the existing law, would not mature until 1920. Mr. Lloyd George said he was still trying to find out the best method of minimising the undoubted evils that existed in drinking. The nation's strength was being strained to the utmost, and anything which tended to diminish that strength was, to that extent, minimising the chances of victory.

Lord Milner's statement in the House of Lords to the effect that the existing stocks of malted barley, which are estimated to be sufficeint for the 10,000,000 barrels of beer authorised to be brewed between now and the end of the year, are useless for any other purpose, is refuted by many agriculturists, who point out that malted barley is a good food for cattle.

Infant Welfare.

Meeting of the Women's Municipal Party.

At the third annual meeting of the Women's Municipal Party, held at Sunderland House, on March 28th, much interesting information was given as to the work of the party, and the necessity of further efforts to gain for women their proper share of representation on municipal bodies. The Chair was taken by the Lady Frances Balfour, and the President, the Duchess of Marlborough, read the annual report.

Sir Arthur Newsholme, K.C.B., Medical Officer of Health to the Local Government Board, spoke on "Maternity and Infant Welfare." He pointed out that the war had some hopeful aspects. Nothing else could so rapidly have extended the sphere of women's work. It had brought about certain reforms, including daylight saving, the use of a much more nourishing flour, thrift, in which the example of the rich counted for so much, and the control of the liquor traffic to an extent never before attempted, though it was desirable that there should be still greater control, which would bring about a decrease in infant mortality.

Silence with regard to the subject of venereal disease had been removed, and the country roused to its danger. The Local Government Board have a scheme to secure free treatment of such cases in general hospitals, and it is desirable to persuade hospital committees to adopt it, and to appoint more women doctors. The subject had an important bearing on infant welfare. Of the major operations performed by a particular women's specialist, one-half were due to these diseases.

Another very important point was the proper care of women in child-birth. Skilled attention and treatment were more easily obtained in big towns than in scattered districts, but in many cases local authorities were reluctant to spend money in providing it, and did not avail themselves of the 50 per cent. grant of the Local Government Board.

He was followed by Mrs. Pember Reeves, Director of Women's Service, Ministry of Health, who spoke on the food question. She told her audience that her great object was to create such a public opinion that no one would dream of wasting food. She had gone into the subject, and she could assure her hearers that compulsory rationing would not bring about a just and fair distribution of food. It was no longer a matter of money. Food was now our chief value, and it must be so skilfully dealt with in cooking that every ounce of value was extracted. It was important to eat slowly. There was the tale of a French General who, when told that his army had to go on half-rations, said, "Then tell the army to eat its rations twice as slowly." The educated classes had always told the poor to be thrifty. Now it was their turn to be thrifty themselves. If everyone wasted a teaspoonful of bread a day, 40 to 50 tons of it would be wasted in a year. We must so conduct ourselves that we shall get through the war without starvation. It was not in the power of the poor to cook food substitutes scientifically. That needed time, and a good equipment. It was impossible for people whose utensils consist of a frying-pan and one saucepan with a hole in it.

Central cooking was to be started for those who had neither plant nor knowledge, so that they could buy and take away food properly bought and properly dealt with. The Directory of Food was soon to start a central kitchen in London, which should not be criticised as "An invention of the evil one to make the mothers lazy."

Mrs. Pember Reeves' concluding appeal was: go away and be thrifty on salmon, on expensive substitute foods, and those the poor can't cook. Drink coffee instead of tea. Apply for a ration card and put it in your window. It is no good expecting the poor to be economical unless you show the way.

SAVING THE BABIES.

The "National Baby Week," which has been arranged for the beginning of July, is to be a gigantic effort to bring home to the general public the unnecessary loss of infant life, and needless suffering of mothers due to ignorance and want of proper facilities for information and treatment. Where agencies for the provision of such facilities already exist, they are to be helped, and the attention of the public drawn to them; where they are as yet non-existent, the public and the local authorities are to be urged to take up the matter. The campaign is to be educative, and also for the purpose of raising money. In addition to the existing Council which is organising the National Baby Week, and its Executive Committee, numerous local committees are to be formed in the most convenient centres throughout the country, all the officers of which will be *ex-officio* members of the National Council. Presidents of local committees will be Vice-Presidents of the National Council.

Among the means to be employed to make the week successful are meetings, garden parties, exhibitions, cinema shows, and open days for crèches and schools for mothers. It is also hoped that schools and colleges will have addresses on the subject, and that sermons, and lessons in the Sunday-schools with reference to the subject will be given on Sunday, July 1st.

"Baby Weeks" have already been held with good results in Paris, Copenhagen, and several cities in the U.S.A. One held in May in New York had a perceptible influence on the death-rate from infantile complaints during the following summer.

All Women's Societies and their individual members are asked to help towards making our own war-time Baby Week the most successful of all.

The reduction of infant mortality is also occupying the attention of women in all our Overseas Dominions. In Capetown a Conference on Child Welfare took place on March 28th, 29th and 30th; this was divided into three sections. The first dealt with the protection of child life, schools for mothers, and care of expectant mothers; the second with industrial schools and other institutions, rescue work and investigation work, and juvenile labour; the third with the physical and moral aspects of the education of children, including the medical inspection of schools, provision for feeble-minded children, and the feeding of underfed children.

Suffrage Societies have continually striven to force local authorities to recognise the importance of the question of preserving infant life, and South African Suffragists will welcome this Conference as a proof of determination that the work of reconstruction shall start with the care of the rising generation. The W.E.A.U. has requested to be allowed to send delegates to this Conference.

A correspondent from New Zealand sends some interesting particulars of the work done by the women of that country for saving the nation's babies. The rate of infant mortality now stands at 51 per 1,000, and the Society for Child Preservation, which works under Lady Plunkett, aims at reducing this to thirty per 1,000. An important feature of the Society's work has been the provision of a really scientific food for babies whose mothers are really unable to nurse them, but mothers are encouraged to nurse their babies themselves whenever possible. "The humanised milk our babies are given," says our correspondent, "is of exactly the same food value as human milk, and has (which is so important) the same constituents—that is, the water sugar of milk (extracted from cows' milk), the top milk, and lime water. The fat, proteid, and casein are exactly the same as in human milk, so the baby is contented and thrives. Babies fed on this humanised milk gain remarkably in weight. Lady Plunkett is endeavouring to establish a similar effort in England, and there is an immense field here for British women's work.

THE TREATMENT OF VENEREAL DISEASES.

In a White Paper issued on March 26th, it is reported that considerable progress has already been made with the organisation of measures for the free diagnosis and treatment of venereal diseases. Eighty-six out of the 145 Councils now charged with the execution of the regulations have submitted their schemes to the Local Government Board, and forty-five of these, serving a population of over 10,000,000, have been approved. Between 130 and 140 hospitals in England and Wales have already promised their co-operation, and work has already been started at thirty hospitals. It is estimated that the facilities provided at these hospitals will serve a population of at least 12,000,000.

A WOMAN MEMBER OF CONGRESS.

The first woman member of Congress, Miss Rankin, received an ovation when she took her seat last week. She is a representative of the State of Montana. She graduated at the University of Montana, and has long been an ardent worker in the cause of Women's Suffrage in the U.S.A.

Within Sight of the Suffrage.

FRANCHISE DEBATE IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.

"*The old order will be changed.*"—MR. ASQUITH, March 28th, 1917.

"Do not doubt it, the old order will be changed," said Mr. Asquith in his opening speech during the great debate on the franchise proposals of the Speaker's Conference. The ex-Premier was asking the House of Commons to recognise that women would no longer occupy their old dependent, subordinate position after the war, and that Parliament must prepare for the new order of things by accepting some such measure of Women's Suffrage as that which the majority of the Speaker's Conference have put forward. The prophecy itself, proceeding, as it did, from Mr. Asquith, and giving the introductory note to the debate, brought its fulfilment in large part before nightfall. As that day closed—one of the big days in the long history of our crusade—the coming of the new order could be discerned and felt.

It was an immensely interesting debate, not solely because such speeches as those of the Prime Minister, Mr. Asquith, and several others were sincere, dignified, and warmed by fire, but by reason of something in the whole changing mental atmosphere of the crowd of men which was at once new and dramatic.

Upwards of four hundred members were in the House. These members had been accustomed for the past ten or more years to hear from the leaders of the Government that an improved franchise for men might be necessary and desirable, but that any kind of franchise for women, however limited, must (to borrow Mr. Asquith's recent phrase) "work out its own salvation," deprived of Government help or favour. During all these past years the strongest supporters of Women's Suffrage have found themselves working against the cogs of the Government machinery, and the weaker friends of our cause, influenced by the temper of the House, have made some efforts and then desisted. The remarkable circumstance last week was the effect upon the rank-and-file—the body of the House—of the strong, clear lead in favour of placing the proposals for Women's Suffrage in the new Bill and alongside of the proposals for the extended enfranchisement of men and other reforms which will also be in that measure. The House responded at once when it found that on this big question Mr. Asquith and Mr. Lloyd George were in agreement. But there had been talk in some well-informed newspapers of strong opposition to come from certain Unionists, which would be brought to bear on every franchise proposal except their own. It was understood that these gentlemen would say in effect that there must be no controversy in war time, but that there would be lively controversy (from them) if the Parliamentary vote were not withheld from all persons except those already on the register and those who had lost their votes by joining his Majesty's Forces. Men in the last-mentioned category were to have their votes restored, but men who had left their old homes to go to munition works were to remain outside the electoral pale.

This expected hostile battalion appeared on the scene in due course, led by Mr. Clavell Salter, but it did not prove to be a very large or very powerful company. Mr. Salter, who is not an actual opponent of Women's Suffrage, and did not speak as such, was joined by the real "Antis," led by Mr. Arnold Ward, who had given up the notion of dividing the House on a sheer anti-Suffrage amendment, and brought his friends, such as Coloner Chaloner and Sir Frederick Banbury, to swell Mr. Salter's group. Even united, they were only sixty-four souls, their two whips included; and, as Mr. Bonar Law pointed out, in urging them not to court defeat in t' lobbies, they were but a minority of the Unionist Party. Mr. Salter did his best very carefully, and with a difficult case. But the intended help of his anti-Suffragist friends was terribly damaging. Mr. Arnold Ward tried to propitiate his male audience by telling them that women ought only to do what he euphemistically styled "auxiliary" work in politics, and that "the men who decided the issue during the war" (excluding, therefore, most of the older ones) "should continue to be the masters in time of peace." Also, of course, he held that the interests of women had been "justly looked after by a Parliament of men elected by men." These naïve appeals to the "bossy" instincts of human nature were rather too bare to be effective. The position of Mr. Salter's little band got much worse during the speech of Colonel Chaloner, who, if the soul of the late Mr. Labouchere could transmigrate, might have been inspired by that anti of the past. The Colonel even brought out the old "pedestal" (which has the great merit of being stationary), and said he liked to see women upon it, and "not on a footing of equality." This speech "did" for Mr. Salter's party, which, in any case, would have stood no chance against the fine oratory and the unanswerable arguments of the chief Parliamentary leaders of all sides, including, of course, particularly the Labour Party, whose determination to break down the sex barrier in political and economic life was vigorously expressed by Mr. Clynes.

The main gist of the speeches was that there must be a new Register, that it should be a large and simple one, and that for every reason (including their national services in peace and war) women of all classes (though not necessarily *all* women) should be able to qualify as electors. The proposals of the Speaker's Conference were arrived at by general concessions; and as expressing a compromise, they should be accepted as a whole—though proportional representation, which has not yet been much discussed by Parliament, might, the Prime Minister thought, be left for later consideration.

On the general and democratic merits of the case for Women's Suffrage, Mr. Asquith spoke with force. He dwelt specially on the need for giving to women's labour a voice in the settlement of post-war problems. Practically he admitted that the full realisation of the professional, industrial, and (in the larger sense) the social aspects of the case for women's enfranchisement has only come to him during the war. Naturally, Mr. Lloyd George spoke with even more fervour, having always desired a broad measure of Women's Suffrage. His reference to instances of peculiar heroism among the women munition workers touched the House deeply. His concrete proposal as to the course the Government intended to pursue was not quite clearly worded, but in the light of what he said the following day to the deputation of women workers, it appears that Women's Suffrage as defined by the resolution of the Conference will undoubtedly be embodied in the Bill, but the House may be left to decide whether the qualifying age shall be thirty or thirty-five. Also the Government will presumably be expected to vote "solid" for the unanimous recommendations, but its members can vote as they think fit upon the Women's Suffrage clause or clauses. Public opinion and personal opinion, however, are now won for the Women's Suffrage cause, and the few exceptions are rapidly dwindling in number. The sixty-two were probably already committed to their ill-advised opposition before they came down to Westminster, and however much they may have been convinced by such speeches as those of Mr. Walter Long and Mr. Bonar Law, they were bound to "dree their weird"; and "dree" it they did—with 341 voting against them, and for us. M. H.

THE ASSOCIATION FOR MORAL AND SOCIAL HYGIENE.

At the annual meeting of the Association for Moral and Social Hygiene, held at Caxton Hall, March 30th, the following resolution was carried *nem. con.*:—

"Believing that liberty with personal responsibility is the true basis of morality, this Association reaffirms its protest against all laws or administrative measures which are unequal between the sexes, or which place any women under legal or police control other than the ordinary law applicable to all adult persons. It specially protests against the new clause introduced by the Home Secretary into the Criminal Law Amendment Bill, by which girls under 18 may be sentenced by a magistrate to four years' detention in a State reformatory on a first conviction for disorderly conduct, and this without any safeguards as to proper evidence or investigation.

"Further, this Association reminds the Home Secretary that under this clause he is imposing heavy penalties on girls up to 18 years of age, but has declined to protect them from sexual interference beyond the age of 16."

The following resolution was also carried:—

"This Association, believing that the duty of the State towards young people who are drifting into criminal courses is to restore and reform rather than to punish them, calls for the appointment of a Commission to enquire—

"1. How far the present methods of prisons, courts, and police help to hinder such restoration.

"2. How the laws and their administration can be improved.

"3. Whether the co-operation of voluntary, educational, and reformative agencies can be more largely utilised.

"The Association is convinced that, in the absence of such enquiry, any extension of repressive legislation is likely to do more harm than good. All experience shows that moral reformation of individuals is more likely to be brought about by voluntary methods than by compulsion, therefore the Association urges that the Government should endeavour to improve and co-ordinate existing agencies, whether official or voluntary."

The Deputation to the Prime Minister.

The Women's Suffrage Deputation received by the Prime Minister on March 29th, was both influential and picturesque. It was essentially a deputation of workers, and representatives of a very large number of trades and professions assembled at 14, Great Smith Street, during the early afternoon, and proceeded from there to 10, Downing Street at 4.30

Mrs. Fawcett, who introduced the deputation, said that the original intention had been to ask the Government to introduce without delay legislation based on the Speaker's Conference recommendations, provided that Women's Suffrage was an integral part of the Bill. She had heard the Prime Minister's speech on Wednesday, and thanked him very heartily for it; but she pointed out that there were certain differences of opinion as to how certain passages should be interpreted. The Prime Minister had said, "The Government proposed to leave this question to be determined by the House of Commons." She herself took this to refer only to the question of the age limitation, but some newspapers interpreted it as referring to the principle of Women's Suffrage. If this were the case, the position would not be so satisfactory for the Suffrage Societies, whose support was conditional upon Women's Suffrage being an integral part of the Government Bill. She asked if the Prime Minister would make this point quite clear, and asked him to answer the following questions:—Were the Suffrage Societies "right in understanding that the Government had promised to introduce a Franchise Bill including a measure of Women's Suffrage? Did the Government intend to make Women's Suffrage an integral part of the Government Franchise Bill, and will that carry with it as a consequence that the Government Whips shall be put on in support of the principle of Women's Suffrage?"

After referring to the fact that the majority of the Societies stood for the vote on the same terms as it is or may be granted to men, Mrs. Fawcett explained that the Deputation would be "very gratified if, in the course of the progress of the legislation embodying the Speaker's Conference proposals, the Prime Minister should see his way to improve, in a democratic direction, upon the recommendations of the Conference—but only so far as is consistent with the safety of the whole scheme." She, speaking for herself and for nearly every other member of the Deputation, greatly preferred "an imperfect scheme that can pass, to the most perfect scheme in the world that could not pass." (Laughter and applause.)

Mrs. Fawcett then referred to the character of the Deputation as illustrative of women's work. "No nation is sustained either in peace or in war, by the work of one sex only; it is sustained by the work of both sexes combined." She then referred to the Scottish Women's Hospitals as part of the national work of the N.U.W.S.S., and to Mrs. Harley, in whose memory a service had been held only a few hours previously at St. Margaret's, Westminster, and whose death was that "which she herself would have chosen—the death of a soldier on the battle-field."

Miss Anderson (Chief Lady Factory Inspector) said she was speaking as one who had "many years' experience in the administration of our laws relating to factories," and that she did so gladly as a British Civil Servant, with official permission, and as a daughter of Great Britain, being Australian by birth. She laid stress on the fact that before the war, "apart from all other wage-earning employments, there were 2,000,000 women and girls at work, of whom two-thirds of a million were demonstrating their skill and excellence in textile industries," and she testified to their great courage and endurance. "Early in the war I heard an American employer of experience here in this country say, 'The best labour in the world is that of the British working woman. She is versatile, energetic in rising to emergencies, and uncomplaining in difficulties." Miss Anderson explained that she did not want to make the working woman out "a paragon, which she is not," but maintained "that the least thing we have to fear is danger to our country if the . . . women should ever voice their own political and industrial needs which are those of their fathers and husbands and lovers and brothers, and children also. Anyone who has a thinking mind . . . knows and admits that these women are worthy of better conditions than they have, whether in their dwellings, or their occupations, or their wages. And the first step—the urgent step—is to consult them; and the next thing is to go on consulting them."

Miss Mary Macarthur, speaking for the Women Trade Unionists, among whom are now included "a very large percentage of women munition-workers," emphasised the need for the enfranchisement of women, so that they may "play their part in the great reconstruction work that is lying ahead of us all." She agreed with Mrs. Fawcett that an imperfect scheme of enfranchisement was better than no scheme at all, but pointed out that the Speaker's Conference proposals shut the door against the vast majority of women engaged on munition work. The fear entertained in some quarters of a majority of women voters, was not shared by the organised working men.

Mrs. Fawcett, before calling on Mrs. Watt to speak, mentioned that Mrs. Tennant and Miss Violet Markham had been among those whom the Deputation had wished to include. Mr. Lloyd George said, amid applause, "Miss Markham is a convert? That is indeed a very welcome announcement."

Mrs. Watt, speaking for the women of the Dominions, pointed out that England, the heart of the Empire, is behind the far-away parts of the Empire in questions relating to women, and that this was a handicap to the women of the Dominions. She said: "I feel that we from the outlying parts of the Empire are entitled to the benefit of the splendid efforts of women in England, and that we should be in a position to reap the fruits of their work in a way we cannot do now. . . . If there were the suffrage here as we have the suffrage in so many other parts of the Empire, we should be in a position to do a great deal of mutual work of advantage to the Empire." She touched on the question of emigration and the advantage to the Dominions of women immigrants who have "had their eyes opened to the wider possibilities of citizenship, who know how to make good homes, who know what child-welfare means."

Mrs. Edwards, speaking in Welsh on behalf of the women of Wales, said that their hope in connection with the Suffrage movement was centred in the Prime Minister, and that if they were successful "the Wales of the future will be cheerier and brighter than the Wales of the past," and a crown of blessing would be placed on the Prime Minister's head.

Mrs. Despard, speaking for the Women's Freedom League, reminded the Prime Minister of a speech he had made at Bath in 1911, in which he had said that Women's Suffrage was not a national, but an international question, "and that if all the great countries in Europe gave their women the vote . . . the fields of Europe would not be drenched with the blood of their sons." She also reminded the Prime Minister that he had opposed the Conciliation Bill on the ground that he thought "the women should have a much larger measure of enfranchisement." She laid stress on the fact that among the workers there was a strong feeling that the "question brooks of no delay," that one of the necessary preparations for peace was the granting of a very wide measure of women's enfranchisement. She referred to what had been done in Russia, and expressed the belief that Great Britain could not fall behind.

In his answer, Mr. Lloyd George described general arguments in favour of Women's Suffrage as "quite unnecessary"; the objection based on physical force, he showed, has died in the trenches, where the soldiers "recollect that it is due very largely to the work which women have rendered that they have been able not merely to defend themselves . . . but actually to hurl back their cruel foe." The positive argument for Women's Suffrage he said to be bound up with "the home," "the health of the people," "the education and upbringing of children." "One thing that will emerge out of this war will, I feel absolutely convinced, be the conviction that women must be admitted to a complete partnership in the government of the nation."

The Prime Minister's answers to the questions put, brought out his conviction that any measure of franchise reform should be "more or less on a basis of agreement in a time of war." The Deputation seemed to him to show "how very qualified" its representatives were to have a vote, since they took "so thoroughly practical a view" as to prefer a proposal "that gets through, even though it be a proposal which is not so good," to a better one that would not get through; and he pointed to the strength of the present position for Women's Suffrage, since it now rested on an agreed report.

Of the age-limit for women voters proposed in the report he made no defence. He admitted it to be "illogical and unjustifiable," but regarded it as a compromise on grounds of expediency.

Pressed with questions as to what would be the attitude of the Government to Women's Suffrage, the Prime Minister answered: "The attitude of the Government with regard to Women's Suffrage will be this—that they leave the question of voting as an open question, as far as they are concerned, for

the House." The Bill, as we pointed out elsewhere, is not "quite in the same category as an ordinary Government Bill, but is a House of Commons Measure, for which every section of the House is equally responsible."

Asked further what exactly would happen to the recommendations for Women's Suffrage—would they be in the Bill, and would they be an integral part of the Bill?—the Prime Minister answered: "I have talked with Mr. Speaker about it, and it is essential, even to get a vote upon the question, that it should be in the Bill, and, therefore, the proposal of Mr. Speaker will be in the Bill."

Moreover, the Prime Minister pointed out, the machinery of the Government would be used to see the Bill through the House of Commons. "We shall incorporate the recommendations of the Speaker's Conference in the Bill, and this Bill will be conducted through the House of Commons by a member of the Government." The recommendation on Women's Suffrage would be left to an open vote of the House. On the result of this vote the Prime Minister's view is "That the minority against Women's Suffrage will be negligible." He said instructions had been given for the preparation of the Bill, and added suffrage "is bound to be in the Bill, because the Speaker has already ruled that you cannot move it as an amendment, and, therefore, unless you put it in the Bill, there will be no chance of voting upon it, and it is essential, even from the drafting point of view, that it shall be in, because of the disaster that happened before [*i.e.*, to Women's Suffrage].

Asked by Mrs. Fawcett as to whether the Women's Suffrage clause would be treated in just the same way as the other parts of the Bill with regard to Government Whips, the Prime Minister said that the question of Whips had not yet been considered at all, and could, therefore, not be answered at the moment, but he made it clear that any member of the Government who differed from his colleagues would be free to record his vote on Women's Suffrage, adding, "I am not aware of a single member of the House of Commons who will desire to differ from his colleagues in that respect."

Mrs. Pankhurst was also received by the Prime Minister.

Representatives of the following occupations took part in the Deputation:—

Actresses; Agricultural Workers; Ambulance Drivers; Accountants; Authors; Bacteriologists; Bookbinders; Brassworkers; Bus Conductors; Bakers; Civil Servants; Carpenters; Cutlers; Dentists; Dressmakers; Doctors; Dispensing Chemists; Electro-Plate Workers; Headmistresses; House Agents; Infant Welfare Workers; Lamplighters; Munition Workers; Munition Welfare Workers; Midwives; Nurses (L.C.C.); Nurses (Norland Institute); Oxy-acetylene Welders; Pit-brow Workers; Policewomen; Poor-law Guardians; Post Office Workers; Presswomen; Railwaywomen; Sanitary Inspectors; Silversmiths; Textile Workers (Cotton); Textile Workers (Woollen); Temperance Workers; Town Councillors; Tailors; Telephonists; Van Drivers; V.A.D.; University Women; Social Workers.

Representatives of the Overseas Dominions, the Millicent Fawcett Hospital Units for Russia (N.U.W.S.S.), the Scottish Women's Hospitals (N.U.W.S.S.), the Textile Weavers' Association, the Teachers' W.S.S., and of Women's Service (L.S.W.S.), also took part.

The Deputation was supported by the following Societies:—

British Women's Temperance Association; National Federation of Women Workers; National Organisation of Girls' Clubs; National Union of Women Workers; National Women's Labour League; Society of Women Musicians; Women's Liberal Federation; Railway Women's Guild; Women's Co-operative Guild; Women's International League.

Also by the following Women's Suffrage Societies:—

Actresses' Franchise League; British Dominions Woman Suffrage Union; Catholic Women's Suffrage Society; Church League for Women's Suffrage; Conservative and Unionist Women's Franchise Association; Free Church League for Women's Suffrage; Friends' League for Women's Suffrage; Hastings and St. Leonards Women's Suffrage Propaganda League; Independent W.S.P.U.; Irishwomen's Suffrage Federation; Jewish League for Women's Suffrage; Liberal Women's Suffrage Union; London Graduates' Union for Women's Suffrage; Men's League for Women's Suffrage; National Council for Adult Suffrage; National Industrial and Professional Women's Suffrage Society; National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies; New Constitutional Society for Women's Suffrage; Scottish Churches League for Women's Suffrage; Scottish University Women's Suffrage Union; Suffragettes of the W.S.P.U.; United Suffragists; Women's Freedom League; Women's Tax Resistance League.

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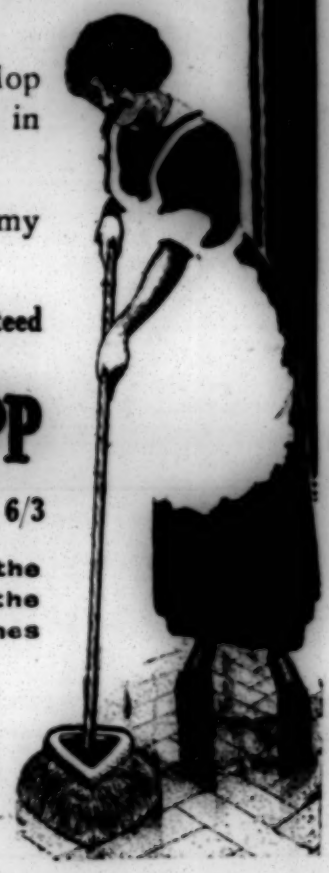

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Current Work

The Annual Meeting was held on March 28th. A report of which will be found on page 682. The Council was elected for the year.

The Council Meeting will be held on April 26th, at Sunderland House, W.

The Duchess of Marlborough announced at the Annual Meeting that the Executive had decided, as a war measure, to endeavour to supply Mrs. Tennant with the Care Committee workers she appealed for at the Woman's Meeting for National Service, held at the Albert Hall on March 17th. A circular letter will be sent to members next week asking them to enrol.

On March 23rd a Quarterly Conference was held at Sunderland House, Mrs. Deane Streatfeild in the Chair. Mrs. Corbett Ashby gave an interesting and instructive address on Electoral Reform. It was decided to form a W.M.P. Study Circle.

New Committees have been formed in Paddington (Chairman: Dr. Christine Murrell), and in Westminster (Chairman: Lady Selborne).

New Citizen Associations are in course of formation in Finsbury, Somers Town, South Islington, and Hammersmith.

Women's Municipal Party Citizen Association April Meetings

April 3rd. Somers Town Inaugural Meeting. Speaker—Mrs. Stanbury
April 4th. Finsbury Second Meeting. Hope Mission, Banner Street
April 5th. Upper Norwood Monthly Meeting. "House-keeping in War Time." Speaker—Mrs. Graham Lacey
April 17th. St. Pancras Monthly Meeting. Speaker—Mrs. Miall-Smith
April 18th. South Islington Inaugural Meeting. Speaker—Mrs. Stanbury
April 23rd. North Islington Monthly Meeting. Speaker—Councillor Miss Keeling
April 26th. North Lambeth Monthly Meeting. Speaker—Miss Bright Ashford

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Funds are very urgently needed.

With increased cost of food, the parcels now cost £2 3s. per month per man. Subscriptions may be sent to the Editor of this paper, or the

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"Remember March—The Ides of March."

By Mrs. Fawcett.

How many of us have been saying to ourselves, "How good it is to be alive in such a wonderful time as the present!" The last half of March has seen the sudden and almost bloodless destruction in Russia of an autocracy that looked impregnable; the adoption by the overwhelming majority in the House of Commons (343 to 64) of Mr. Asquith's motion calling for prompt legislation on the lines recommended by the Speaker's Conference, makes the peaceful passing away of the autocracy of sex almost a certainty in Great Britain; while in Germany the union of the two sections of the Socialist party in the Reichstag in opposition to the Chancellor's motion for a new credit for carrying on the war gives a hope that is almost dazzling in its brilliance. Any one of these events alone would have marked a long step forward in the progress of human freedom. Taken together, they are more full of hope and promise for the laying of the foundations of a new and better Europe than can easily be measured.

The Russian Revolution has been well likened to the trumpet call in the "Leonora" overture. We all remember how the music represents the enormous weight and brutal strength of tyranny, and the tragic fate of its victim lying apparently helpless and unfriended, crushed morally and physically. Then first comes love to make a break in the darkness—love in the victim's own breast, then love again in the person of Leonora. The victim is now no longer morally crushed, hope reawakens; but physically he and she are as much oppressed as ever. Then comes the wonderful moment of the trumpet call, which thrills us all even to remember. It means that physical help is at hand, and there is that union of moral and physical force which carries everything before it triumphantly, and is wonderfully represented in the glorious conclusion of the overture.

The trumpet call of the "Leonora" overture has come to us also. We have long had the moral forces behind us, which are essential to any victory worth the name; now we have the physical forces also, and the union of the two makes our triumph in the near future almost a certainty.

An analysis of the Division List of March 28th strengthens our confidence that this year will see the enfranchisement of women an accomplished fact. The following is taken from *The Times* of March 30th:—

	For Mr. Salter's Amendment.	*Against.*
Liberal	—	188
Unionist	64	79
Labour	—	24
Nationalist	—	51
Independent	—	1
Total	64	343

Mr. Salter himself and several of those who voted with him are supporters of Women's Suffrage, and therefore it was not opposition to our enfranchisement that caused them to vote as they did; but it should be made quite plain to them that whatever motives prompted their opposition, it is in effect a real and vital way of injuring our cause. We may remind members that if unsuccessful in preventing the enfranchisement of women, it will almost certainly react injuriously on the party from which the opposition proceeded, just as the opposition of the Conservative party to the agricultural labourers' vote in 1884 injured that party for at least a generation in agricultural constituencies. Considerations of this nature were pointed out by several speakers in the debate, including the Prime Minister and Mr. Bonar Law, and it may be hoped that many of the Unionists who supported Mr. Salter will bow to the decision of the overwhelming majority of the House, and will not be parties to obstruction when the Bill is going through. It will give them

food for reflection that they are in a minority in their own party as well as in the House.

Another consideration will, it is believed, have a great deal of weight. The Speaker's Conference was an experiment in settling a thorny and difficult set of domestic problems. There are other problems equally thorny and difficult, notably the Irish question, and the Constitutional position of the House of Lords. People are beginning to say, "Relegate these questions also to a conference." But what chance is there of this useful suggestion being adopted if after months of labour the one conference which has been held issues in no useful and practical result? If the Speaker's Conference is to prove a precedent to be applied to other problems, it is worse than folly to throw away the results of its labours on the subject of Electoral Reform.

"The Common Cause" Hut.

It was a bright, sunny day, but bitterly cold, when I went to see the skeleton outline of The Common Cause Hut. It is being built as fast as the difficult state of things enable it on a pleasant waste piece of ground quite near the station. There is ample room on the grassy plot that surrounds it for a garden where the tired munition workers can sit in the summer evenings enjoying the sunshine and the singing of the birds in the gardens of the comfortable residential houses near. For though the Hut is being built close to the station, and quite near to three large munition factories, it is situated in a particularly nice neighbourhood. And in Coventry the works begin early in the morning, and the girls are free about 6 p.m., so that when Summer-time is in force, there will be several hours of sunshine left to them every evening.

The Hut will consist of one large recreation or drill hall, with smaller rooms round, and a restaurant, and, in addition, eight cubicles, where girls stranded late at night in an unknown town may sleep. There is at present a tiny Hut actually in the station itself, but no accommodation for lodging late travellers, and it is so badly needed.

The station worker told me that she often had girls arrive from Ireland, or the Channel Islands, or Wales, between 2 and 4 a.m. They are frequently still suffering from sea-sickness, or crying from sheer fatigue and home-sickness, and it is impossible for her to find lodging for them then. She feeds them and rests them for that night, but they cannot stay longer, and have to take any lodgings they can find next day in the intervals of their work. They feel strange and miserable, and nearly always ask Mrs. Kirk if there is anywhere where they can come to see her again. "We know no one," they say; "we should like to come and see you sometimes." "But, of course," said Mrs. Kirk, "there is nowhere that I can appoint to meet them; I have fresh girls by almost every train, and I have to let them go and do the best they can. If only there had been the Hut ready to which I could send them, where they would find friends of the right kind, and proper recreation and amusement, and where, perhaps, I could see them myself again, it would have been the means of saving very many of them, sometimes from bitter consequences." For though there is some provision for G.F.S. girls, and there are a few clubs, they are a drop in the ocean to the need.

The girls, many of them very young, throng the darkened streets of Coventry every evening, and fill the picture-houses and theatres and the hippodrome, when they can get in; but, great as the influx into the town has been, the number of men munition workers is much greater. I was told there are three men to every girl in Coventry. Both sexes are eager to relieve the strain and monotony of their work, and ready for any excitement that may present itself in the evenings. Anything that promises adventure or romance appeals irresistibly to them, and there is always the danger of their drifting into disaster without meaning it, and almost before they know where they are.

"The only thing about The Common Cause Hut," said Mrs. Kirk, "is that we needed it six months earlier." And there must be another six or eight weeks before it is ready, even now, and longer if the money does not come in.

There are the great munition works, with their colonies of hostels for the workers out at Foleshill, also. The early evening train brings them, literally by the thousand, into the town in search of recreation. For these, too, the Hut might provide wholesome friendship and amusement, especially as it is so near to the station, and there is a convenient train back about nine. I like to imagine the tired girls sitting in the garden round our Hut reading and talking, or, with their indomitable energy, dancing country dances in the large Hall, or sitting in the quiet library writing letters home.

There is a big works at Foleshill, where Miss Ellen Walshe, well known to Common Cause readers, acts as caterer and storekeeper for three thousand girls. They are housed in rows and rows of bungalow hostels, each under a hostel matron, with bathrooms attached. They have immense mess-rooms, where, being unrationed, they have as much food four times a day as they can eat. Miss Walshe deals with tons and hundredweights of oatmeal, sugar, bacon, peas, bread, and meat; and as the girls come filing in, the meals are handed out to them on hot plates with incredible rapidity. The organisation is wonderful. Many of the waitresses and other workers are university girls, doing hard duty all day seven days a week. I watched one lady whose work was to melt margarine all day for spreading bread and butter. She had been melting margarine for eight months, with an occasional variety of dripping or lard. She laughingly declared that she preferred the margarine, as "dripping smells so sickly after several hours of it."

"I wish The Common Cause Hut would make haste," said Miss Walshe; "there is nothing for the girls here except the Wesleyan Institute, which has been doing a great work for some time. The firm is building recreation-rooms, but the difficulty is that after their work is over, the girls want to get away from the whole surroundings; from us, and from each other. We all get on each other's nerves, and crave change of scene and companionship more than anything else." I wondered what forms of change and recreation the tired Welfare Workers and Matrons had. I found that though the country round is pretty, they are too weary to go for walks in their rare moments of leisure, and it seemed that no one ever thought of offering them drives, or even inviting them to tea, though the Coventry Library had kindly arranged to send them a regular supply of books.

And that reminds me that The Common Cause Hut will want a Library, for some of the munition workers are studious, thoughtful girls, and young lives are often greatly influenced by the kind of books that fall into their hands. Perhaps one of our Suffrage Societies will start collecting a Library of suitable books to be ready for the Opening of the Hut.

Carol Ring.

£1,000 is needed for the building and full equipment of The Common Cause Hut.

Of this, £750 has already been collected. Who will help to complete the remaining **£250**? Will not the Societies of the National Union make a collection to help us?

We gratefully acknowledge the following donations:—

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Already acknowledged	723	4	11
Mrs. Raleigh	10	6	
Kingston and Surbiton W.S.S.	1	0	0
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WOMEN MUNITION WORKERS' PAY.

A deputation of women munition workers from all parts of the country, organised by the National Federation of Women Workers, was received on March 29th by Mr. Kellaway, on behalf of the Ministry of Munitions. The deputation demanded an increase of 2d. an hour and 5s. a week on the minimum laid down for women engaged on men's work. It was pointed out that in the recent award of the Committee on Production the women were left out.

Miss Mary Macarthur said, although it was alleged that women were receiving extravagantly high wages for munition work, they were, as a fact, in a worse position than before the war, because of the reduced purchasing power of the sovereign. Considerable feeling prevailed in some of the more crowded areas.

Mr. Kellaway's reply was sympathetic.

It is expected that an official announcement will be issued in a few days.

£250

still needed to complete the £1,000 required to build and equip the

"Common Cause" HUT

AT the express wish of the Minister of Munitions, the "Common Cause" Hut, now being erected in one of the principal munition areas, is to be of much greater dimensions than originally intended. It will be capable of seating hundreds of girls and will be complete in every detail, in fact, it is to be the biggest and best equipped Hut that the Y.W.C.A. have ever erected.

IT will contain a Rest Room, Cloak Room, Kitchen, Bar Counter, Bath Rooms, and everything possible will be done for the comfort, convenience and recreation of the girls and women.

THERE are more women and girl workers in this district than any other munition area in the Kingdom, and the accommodation required will necessitate the cost of the hut being increased to £1,000, instead of the £500 for which we originally asked. We are sure the readers of "The Common Cause" will see the necessity for thus making this further appeal to their generosity.

Will you who have not already given, kindly give something now?

Your reward will be the unbounded gratitude of the women and girls who will use the hut, and the knowledge that you are helping in a great national cause.

This "named" hut, now in actual process of being built, in a district where it is urgently required, will be a great and striking tribute, to the workers, of the love and practical sympathy of the readers of this journal.

CHEQUES, POSTAL ORDERS, &c., should be addressed to the Editor of "The Common Cause," 14, Great Smith Street, Westminster, S.W. 1.

To the Editor of "The Common Cause,"
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Dear Madam,

I enclose my "bit" towards the equipment of "The Common Cause" Hut, viz.: _____
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Address _____

Glucose.

[*The following article has been kindly sent to us in response to the request for information with regard to glucose which we published in our Correspondence Columns last week.*]

Glucose is a starch-sugar made by the action of a dilute acid, generally sulphuric acid, upon starch. Some twenty or thirty years ago the potato was the source of the starch employed, and this country was chiefly indebted to Germany for its glucose. Then America drove out the German product with a glucose made from maize, and latterly Argentine maize has been the raw material used by several English manufacturers.

Glucose has had a somewhat chequered public career. For a number of years its use in jams and sweets was not fraught with any legal consequences. Then a prosecution for adulteration of marmalade by glucose came as a surprise to the jam-making trade. The case is known as Smith *v.* Wisden, and the prosecution failed; nevertheless, many analysts, and some manufacturers, regard glucose as an adulterant; Government departments, too, have stipulated that jams supplied to them shall not contain added starch glucose.

So far as the public are concerned, they always have a prejudice against the unknown; they object to glucose for the same reason that they would decline to buy a jam made from fruit and sucrose, or, to give another synonym for sugar, a hexanepentolal-hexanepentolone bioside. This prejudice was greatly and naturally increased a few years ago, when cases of arsenical poisoning were traced to the use of a contaminated supply of glucose by a brewer.

Since the beginning of the war, and the consequent scarcity of sugar, glucose has received official blessings from one or more Government departments. But at the present time, from the national point of view, it would appear better to use sugar rather than glucose on the score of economy in shipping space. White sugar such as granulated contains very little water, whilst there is 15 per cent. to 20 per cent. in glucose. Glucose is now intrinsically dearer than Government white sugar, so there is no advantage in importing maize for its manufacture in this country.

What are the merits and demerits of glucose from a housekeeper's point of view? It is a wholesome and valuable foodstuff. It may be used as an ingredient in jam-making: it diminishes the risk of crystallisation, and, like sucrose (*i.e.*, sugar), is a preservative; probably traces of sulphites which it contains enhance its value in this direction. On the other hand, it has little or no sweetness; the sulphites can be detected by the palate, and certainly deteriorate the flavour of the jam; it is a stiff, sticky liquid, very awkward to deal with at home. In factories it is kept warm in a steam pan, when it is thinner and easily ladled out as required. Glucose in small quantities is not easily obtained; it is probably at least as difficult to get as sugar, and even if cheaper weight for weight, is actually more costly, as it contains more water.

In conclusion, a few words on the use of glucose may be useful to readers who would like to give it a trial. It is quite possible to make a preserve of starch glucose and fruit alone, but as there is very little sweetness in glucose, the preserve is not palatable. It is better to consider it as a substance to eke out sugar.

A good jam can be made from three pounds of fruit, two pounds of sugar, and one pound of glucose. The sugar is dissolved in some water, the fruit is added, and the jam boiled; when it is ready to take off the fire, the glucose is thoroughly mixed in. The glucose may with advantage be warmed, but it need not, and should not, be boiled. The use of a larger proportion of glucose is not advisable.

Ernest Marriage.

IMPORTANCE OF FRESH VEGETABLES.

An article by Miss M. Yates, Secretary of the Bread and Food Reform League, published in *The Graphic* for March 31st, contains a warning against the indiscriminate substitution of rice and other cereals for potatoes without the addition of plenty of fresh vegetables to the diet to supply the necessary anti-scorbutic elements. If fresh vegetables are not procurable, ¼ oz. of preserved mixed vegetables may be used in lieu of 1 oz. of fresh vegetables. It also dwells on the fact that potatoes lose immensely in nutritive value when peeled, placed in cold water, and boiled. Placing peeled potatoes in water already boiling gives better results; but boiling, steaming, or baking them in their skins reduces waste to a minimum.

Correspondence.

THE N.U.W.S.S. INFORMATION BUREAU.

Madam,—I have wondered sometimes if suffragists, especially those responsible for Press work, realise fully the value of the Information Bureau of the N.U.W.S.S. I have found it of the greatest help during the last year. There are still antis in the land, and for their confusion nothing avails but sheer plain fact. The time for arguments as to the justice of the suffrage claim is past. The anti never ventures on that ground now. The favourite appeal is now to the patriotism of the suffragist "only wait a little longer." The only effective reply now lies in the appeal to facts. This, and this, and this has been effected by the woman's vote in the enfranchised countries; this, and this, and this is the condition in our own country. Can we afford any longer what Mrs. Fawcett calls the "gross waste of an important national asset"? In other words, suffrage propaganda, which in pre-war days was based to a large extent on the woman's need of State protection, should now be based on the State's need of the women's help. Our realisation of this need renders any slackening in our propaganda impossible. This truth can best be driven home by citation of actual facts, and these the Information Bureau may be trusted to supply. I should like to draw attention to the very valuable series of data regarding the effect of the vote in Australia on women's wages. Those who have struggled with the many pages of statistics in the Australian Year Book will be grateful for the capacity which extracts the relevant matter, and even more grateful for the additional figures, not contained in the Year Book, showing the rapid rise since enfranchisement. In view of the present agitation on Moral Reform, the statistics dealing with the position of the suffrage States in America are invaluable for controversial purposes. The facts regarding Child Welfare would break down the indifference of even the most stolid among the rank and file of the antis, an indifference based on sheer ignorance. In all these directions, the help of the Information Bureau is indispensable, and is rendered with a thoroughness and promptitude for which its subscribers cannot be too grateful.

Dora Mellone,
Hon. Press Secretary, Belfast Suffrage Society.

A FEDERATION OF MEDICAL WOMEN.

Madam,—In your note on the Criminal Law Amendment Bill in this week's Common Cause, you kindly mention that the opposition of the Registered Medical Women's Association helped to defeat Clause 6. All the various Medical Women's Associations in the country held meetings to discuss this Bill, and especially Clauses 2 and 6, and seven Associations sent up resolutions on the subject. All the Women's Medical Associations are now united into the Medical Women's Federation, and the Registered Medical Women is now defunct, but has arisen anew as the London Medical Women's Association. The Federation will include not only members in the British Isles, but also in our overseas Dominions, and in India. Already enquiries have been received from Canada, Tasmania, Australia, and India, and before long we hope to hear that Associations have been formed which will become part of the Federation.

Jane Walker,
President of the Medical Women's Federation.

HEALTH VISITOR'S RIGHT OF ENTRY.

Referring to the Duchess of Marlborough's very interesting article in our issue of March 23rd, Mrs. E. E. Radford points out that it is only when a health visitor is also a sanitary inspector that she has "the statutory right to visit the homes of those mothers who do not wish to avail themselves of existing care." Unless she is a sanitary inspector, the official health visitor has no greater right of entry into private houses than a voluntary welfare worker, but depends on her tact and power of persuasion.

CONTRIBUTIONS FOR A JUMBLE SALE.

Contributions will be gratefully welcomed by the Ascot Suffrage Society for a jumble sale, to be held for the running expenses of working parties, working for the S.W. Hospitals. Please send by April 18th to Miss P. Forrester, Hon. Treasurer, Greenaway, Ascot.

WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE IN SOUTH AFRICA.

At the annual meeting of the Port Elizabeth (Cape of Good Hope) Women's Enfranchisement League, a fine record of work done during 1916 was put before the meeting by the Secretary, Miss Dorman. While subordinating political work to various forms of work which are the outcome of war conditions, the League has kept steadily before the public the fact that it is a Suffrage Society which is undertaking these tasks. The League has helped in the raising of funds for various relief and aid societies, notably for the Governor-General's Fund, for which it raised over £200 in twenty months. Early in 1916, a Red Cross working party was started, and valuable parcels of clothing, &c., have been sent to the *depôt* at Capetown.

Meetings have been held, and on several occasions good speakers have been secured to address members of the League on various subjects, and invitations have been offered to the public to attend these lectures. Members of the League have also spoken on the Suffrage question before other societies.

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The Hansard, giving the full Parliamentary debate at Wednesday's historic meeting of the House of Commons, when Mr. Asquith moved the resolution thanking the Speaker's Conference and urging that a Bill be immediately drafted on the lines it suggested, may be obtained from the Literature Department. Price 3d.; postage, 1d.

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Clevedon W.S.S.:—			
Miss Henry		10	0
Miss M. H. Clayton		2	0
Mrs. Rackham	10	0	0
Ascot W.S.S.	2	2	0
Miss F. M. Tasker ...	1	0	0
Miss G. M. Manley-Smith ...	1	0	0
Lady Urwick	1	0	0
East Grinstead W.S.S.		11	0
Lady Lawson Tancred	1	0	0
Miss Lilian Dickins		5	0
Cambridge W.S.S.	4	0	0
Mrs. Hans Renold	3	0	0
Kirkcaldy W.S.S.	1	0	0
Budleigh Salterton W.S.S. ...	5	0	0
Miss Sybil Cameron	1	0	0
Wokingham W.S.S. (2nd donation)	1	0	0
	£1,218	7	8

Contributions to the General Fund.

	£	s.	d.
Already acknowledged since November 1st, 1916. ...	990	15	2
Received from March 26th to 30th, 1917:—			
Subscriptions.			
Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Schuster	3	3	0
Affiliation Fees.			
Ackworth W.S.S.		10	0
Bedford W.S.S.		5	3
Bridgnorth W.S.S.		14	0
Bridgwater W.S.S.		5	0
Croydon W.S.S.		12	6
Eye and District W.S.S.... ...		5	0
Chorley W.S.S.		5	0
Hastings & St. Leonards W.S.S.	1	6	6
		5	0
Biggleswade W.S.S.		7	6
Stafford W.S.S.			
Torquay W.S.S.	1	8	9
Wolverhampton W.S.S	1	10	0
Malvern W.S.S.	1	5	0
Cupar W.S.S.	1	5	0
Hunts W.S.S.		11	6
Beaconsfield W.S.S.		13	0
Stockport W.S.S.		11	0
Alresford W.S.S.		5	0
Bromsgrove and District W.S.S.		10	0
Preston W.S.S.	2	10	6
Redhill and Reigate W.S.S. ...	2	0	0
South Somerset W.S.S.		10	0
Stirlingshire W.S.S.	1	2	6
Dorchester W.S.S.		5	0
Berwickshire W.S.S.	2	0	0
Ross W.S.S.		5	0
Abergavenny W.S.S.		6	0
Stratford-on-Avon W.S.S. ...		5	0
Durham W.S.S.		12	6
Heathfield and District W.S.S.	1	5	0
Herne Bay W.S.S.		16	0
Holmfirth W.S.S.		5	0
Hunstanton W.S.S.		10	0
Newhaven W.S.S.		7	6
Salisbury W.S.S.	1	0	0
Weston-super-Mare W.S.S. ...		16	6
Bridge of Weir W.S.S.	1	3	6
Castle Douglas W.S.S.		8	0
Leven W.S.S....	1	0	0
Kirkcaldy W.S.S.	2	0	0
	£1,026	1	2

IMPORTANT.

Cheques should be crossed.

Postal Orders should be crossed, and filled in N.U.W.S.S.

Treasury Notes should be treated like coins, and *always* registered. If any contributions remain more than two days unacknowledged, please write at once to the Secretary, N.U.W.S.S., 14, Great Smith Street, S.W. 1.

Please address letters containing money either to the Secretary, or to Mrs. Auerbach or Miss Sterling by name, *not* to the Treasurer.

The Millicent Fawcett Hospital Units.

FIFTY-EIGHTH LIST.

	£	s.	d.
Already acknowledged ...	11,411	19	7
Newnham College Branch, Cambridge Women Students' S.W.S., Dr. King Atkinson's Meeting (additional)	1	0	0
Collection at Mrs. Marshall's Drawing-room Meeting (additional):—			
Lady Tollemache	2	0	0
Miss Barnes	1	1	0
Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Black ...	1	1	0
Holywood Suffrage Society ...	3	0	0
Miss L. Tottenham		5	0
Altrincham W.S.S.	13	0	0
Hull W.S.S.: 12th monthly collection	2	4	6
Miss Bertha M. Skeat		5	0
	£11,435	16	1

Further donations should be sent to the Countess of Selborne, or to Miss Sterling, N.U.W.S.S., 14, Great Smith Street, London, S.W. 1. Cheques and Postal Orders to be crossed "London County and Westminster Bank, Victoria Branch."

The following cablegrams of congratulation have been received by Mrs. Fawcett:—

1. "Buffalo (New York) suffragists hope to vote with you this year. Your success means ours.—(Signed) M. C. Wright, Chairman Buffalo Women's Suffrage Party."

2. From Jamestown, New York.

"Appreciation for vital services rendered by you before and during war in the cause of votes for women. Your victories help us to win New York State in November.—(Signed) Gertrude Franchot, Hon. Chairman Suffrage School."

DONATIONS TO N.U.W.S.S. SCOTTISH WOMEN'S HOSPITAL.

Further subscriptions are still urgently needed, and should be sent to Mrs. Laurie, Hon. Treasurer, Red House, Greenock. Cheques to be crossed Royal Bank of Scotland. Subscriptions for the London Units to be sent to the Hon. Mrs. B. M. Graves, or the Right Hon. Viscountess Cowdray, 66, Victoria Street, London, S.W.

	£	s.	d.
Forward as per list to March 22nd, 1917	188,227	0	0½
Further donations received to March 29th, 1917:—			
*Park Church's Deacon's Court, per Duncan McCallum, Esq. (Royaumont)	5	0	0
Miss Margaret Wright	1	1	0
Miss Chalmers	3	0	0
Employees Bainsford & Grahamston Co-op. Baking Soc., Ltd., per Miss Mary S. Rule ...	3	3	0
*Miss Dunlop...	50	0	0
*Anonymous, per the Assistant Manager, First National Bank of Chicago	2	2	
Dr. T. P. Stewart	1	1	0
Mrs. Macrae	2	0	0
Wm. Henderson, Esq.	1	1	0
*J. Stewart-Clark, Esq.	100	0	0
*Per Miss Low, per Miss Moir, Falkirk W.S.S.: Messrs. Cockburn (£1 1s.), Staff and Employees Cross Chemical Co., Ltd. (£4), Staff and Employees McDowell, Stevens & Co., Ltd. (£5)—(£10 1s.). Per Miss Low: Staff and Employees Miller & Co. (£56) ...	66	1	0
Mrs. Maclaurin	2	0	0
*Misses W. and S. Rintoul ...	4	0	0
Miss M. A. Cunningham ...	1	1	0
John B. Kennedy, Esq.	5	0	0
Miss E. M. King	10	0	0
*The Misses Watson	4	0	0
Mrs. Carlow	2	2	0
Mrs. John Hogarth	1	1	0
Miss Stenhouse	1	0	0
F. H.	1	0	0
*Per Miss Bury: Tax refunded from Golspie Lecture		17	8
*Per Mrs. Robertson: Employees and Staff Saxone Shoe Co., Ltd. (£4 14s. 8d.), Employees Boyd & Forrest (59th con.) (£3)	7	14	8
Mrs. C. Maclaren	1	0	0
*Miss A. C. Macleod	5	0	0
"A. S. H.," per *Miss A. F. Anderson	4	0	0
*A. Bisset Thom, Esq. (towards Canadian Ward)...	1	1	0
A. J. Berwick, Esq.	2	2	0
*Per Miss Kathleen Burke, per James B. Forgan, Esq., Local Treas., First National Bank, Chicago, per J. D. Gulland, Esq., Manager, British Linen Bank, Glasgow	266	17	4
Anonymous	20	0	0
Miss A. W. Ferguson	2	0	0
Mrs. A. Briggs	3	0	0
Mrs. W. T. Law	1	0	0
Miss J. C. Hargraves	1	1	0
Mrs. Tweedie Watson	5	0	0
*Mrs. Hardy	5	0	0
Share of proceeds of Hawick and District Free Gift Sale, per Robert Purdon, Esq., Hon. Treas....	200	0	0
*William Lyon, Esq.	2	0	0
Miss J. E. Ferme		10	0
Miss Turnbull and the Misses Anderson	1	10	0
B. Robertson, Esq....	2	10	0
W. A. Inglis, Esq....	2	0	0
W. J. Rollo, Esq.	2	0	0
Collected by Sale of War Recipes, by Mrs. Cooper ...		10	0
John Lang, Esq.	1	1	0
Robert M. Stevenson, Esq., for Motor Ambulance, per Miss Kemp	350	0	0
Horley W.S.S., per Miss S. Clark, Sec.	1	1	0
*Miss Ellingsen	10	0	0
*Mrs. Tindal	1	0	0
*Per Miss Marian P. Gibb, to complete "Scottish Musicians'" bed at Salonika, for six months, ending March 31st, 1917	10	0	0
	£189,402	8	8½

*Denotes further donations.

The list of donations for the Serbian Prisoners of War Fund is being held over till next week.

N.U.W.S.S. SCOTTISH WOMEN'S HOSPITALS.

Newnham and Girton Unit.

The following members of the Newnham and Girton Unit have been given decorations for their services to the Serbian wounded:—

Dr. A. L. McIlroy, Order of Saint Saba, III. Class; Dr. Keer, Order of Saint Saba, IV. Class; Dr. Emslie, Order of Saint Saba, IV. Class; Dr. Macgregor, Order of Saint Saba, IV. Class; Dr. Alexander, Order of Saint Saba, IV. Class; Miss Edith Stoney, M.A. (radiographer), Order of Saint Saba, IV. Class; Miss Baughan, Order of Saint Saba, IV. Class.

LONDON UNITS OF THE SCOTTISH WOMEN'S HOSPITALS.

The British Commissioner at Petrograd has cabled that all the Scottish Women who were in Petrograd at the time of the Revolution are quite safe. Dr. Potter and eleven of the *personnel* have arrived home, after experiencing considerable difficulties on the journey. One boat was to have arrived at ———, but finding the port closed, had to sail to ———, and the party of Scottish Women on board, after waiting twenty-four hours, came to England by a circuitous route.

WOMEN FOR THE LAND.

An appeal is made by the Women's National Service Department for 10,000 women to train for farm work. Of these, 5,000 are to be taught milking, and 5,000 general farm work. Women already in trades of primary importance should not apply.

Applications will be dealt with promptly, and it is hoped to place suitable candidates in a training centre within ten days of the filling-in of their forms. Fares will be paid, and a month's free training and maintenance given free. Uniforms will also be provided. After training, pupils will be sent to carefully selected farms, where they will be under the protection of supervisors appointed by the Women's War Agricultural Committees. The minimum wage will be 18s. a week, with bonuses for special work and harvesting.

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S FRANCHISE CLUB,
9, Grafton St., Piccadilly, W. **FOR MEN AND WOMEN.**
Subscription: One Guinea per annum from date of Entrance (Irish, Scottish, and Foreign Members, 10/6).
Weekly LECTURES
VALUABLE LENDING AND REFERENCE LIBRARY of English and Foreign Books free to Members. Non-members, 5/6 per annum.
Catering now re-organized on NEW lines. Luncheons & Dinners from 1/-.
All Particulars—Secretary. Tel.: MAYFAIR 3932.

What Some of our Societies are Doing.

The Edinburgh Society celebrates its jubilee this year, and in recognition of the event the officers invited Mrs. Fawcett to address the annual meeting on March 16th. In spite of the weather, which was bitter, and the difficulties of railway travelling, which are many and great, Mrs. Fawcett accepted the invitation, and in moving the adoption of the annual report, made a stirring and eloquent speech. The meeting suffered a great loss in the absence, through illness, of the President of the Society, Miss S. E. S. Mair, who has been connected with the Society since its earlier days, and to whom it owes a debt it can never adequately repay. Two resolutions were put to the meeting, and passed unanimously, the first being similar to the Suffrage resolution passed on February 17th, by the meeting in the Caxton Hall. The second resolution welcomed the Solicitors Qualification of Women Bill, and urged the Government to introduce a similar Bill for Scotland. Copies of both resolutions were forwarded to all the M.P.s in the area, and up to date answers have been received promising support to the "Solicitors" Bill, from J. W. Pratt, Esq., M.P., Linlithgowshire, Scottish Whip, and Major Charles Lyell, M.P., South Edinburgh. There has been much political activity during the past few months. Our friends are as staunch as ever, and our opponents are beginning to see light; two of the most bigoted confessing to "modified views."

At Christmas time, owing to pressure of suffrage work, the Edinburgh Society was forced to sever its official connection with the Leith War Pensions Committee. The Society had devoted the greater part of its energies since the outbreak of war, to relief work in Leith, under the S. and S.F.A., and, later, under the L.P.C.

The Hon. Treasurer submitted her report, which showed receipts amounting to £2,770 10s. 7d., of which £520 12s. 5d. was subscribed for purely suffrage work, the remaining sum of £2,225 18s. 2d., being raised in the area on behalf of the N.U.W.S.S. Scottish Women's Hospitals, by Miss Alice Low, who for long was one of the organisers of the Edinburgh Society, and who is now on the staff of the S.W.H.

Manchester and District.

Manchester.—The joint Suffrage Demonstration held in the Albert Hall, Manchester, on the afternoon of March 3rd, was a memorable gathering, for not only was the attendance very large, but the spirit of enthusiasm and eagerness pervading the vast audience was most inspiring. The thirteen organisations which had jointly arranged the meeting had entered upon the undertaking with a considerable amount of trepidation, for money and workers are more difficult to obtain in war time than they used to be in the days of peace. The men and women who were present were representative of all classes and interests in the city and surrounding districts. Notwithstanding the difficulties of travelling, the high railway fares, and the occupation of most suffragists in various forms of war work, the representation from various societies of the Manchester and District Federation, was very satisfactory; Manchester, of course, contributed a large proportion of the audience, and the outlying societies came in large numbers, and occupied between 300 and 400 seats in the large gallery.

It was interesting to see little groups of working-class girls who had evidently never attended a suffrage meeting before come into the Hall. The eagerness of the interest which the girls and women employed on war work in this area are displaying in the suffrage agitation was evident from the large numbers of women boxmakers, munition makers, &c., scattered throughout the Hall, which made a brave show, decorated with the banners of suffrage societies and co-operative guilds.

We hear from Sir John Simon how much he is impressed by the meeting as evidence of keenness in the district, and from several of the other speakers we have received letters of appreciation as to the keen and sympathetic audience.

The collection, for which an appeal was made by Mr. Armstrong, realised sufficient to pay the expenses of the meeting (£67 7s. 1d.), and left a balance of £23 18s. 8d., besides promises of donations to the amount of £17 6s.

Hyde.—On March 1st, a successful meeting was held. The chair was taken by Mrs. T. Carter Beeley, and Mrs. Thoday, Hon. Sec. of the Manchester and District Federation, spoke on the present political situation. Her excellent speech made a great impression on those present. After discussion, the Hon. Sec., Mrs. Middleton, gave an account of the annual council meetings. Two resolutions were then passed on the lines of those passed at the Demonstration in Manchester on March 3rd, and the other was sent to the N.U. Executive. It was decided to hold a Flag Day for the Hyde bed in the Manchester and District Federation Hospital in Corsica.

Oldham.—On Saturday afternoon, February 24th, Miss Rathbone addressed a meeting in the Music Room, Werneth Park (kindly lent by Mrs. Lees). The address, on the "Present Position of Women's Suffrage," was keenly enjoyed by the audience. A resolution, to be sent to the two Members of Parliament, was carried unanimously.

On February 28th, under the auspices of the Society, a grand concert was held in the Town Hall, in aid of the upkeep of the Oldham beds in the hospitals at Royaumont and Corsica. The Mayor described the work of the hospitals in a short speech. The services of the artistes were given, and the concert was most successful.

Forthcoming Meetings.

APRIL 7.

Cupar, Fife—Drill Hall, Castlefield—Jumble Sale in aid of the Scottish Women's Hospitals 2.30 p.m.

APRIL 12.

Holt—A Rummage Sale, in aid of the Scottish Women's Hospitals—Old clothes, unwanted new clothes, and articles of every description will be gratefully acknowledged by the Secretary, Miss Verrall, Letheringsett, Holt, Norfolk—There will be a farm and garden produce stall.

Coming Events.

A meeting of the London Branch of the National Union of Women Workers of Great Britain and Ireland will be held on Wednesday, April 11th, at 3.30 p.m., at Sunderland House, Curzon Street, W. Speaker: Mrs. C. S. Peel (Director of Women's Service, Ministry of Munitions), on "Economy in Food as a National Service." Tickets may be obtained from Miss Rosamond Smith, 12, Eaton Place, S.W.

ROBINSON'S APRONS

Robinson's Nurses' Aprons and Requisites are guaranteed to be of the best materials only. Perfect shape and fit, they are the result of many years' experience. Send for Booklet number C, post free.

Nurses' Aprons, round and square bib, gored or gathered, with Red Cross or without, 1/11, 2/6, 2/11 each.

These are the **Frazerton Aprons** and thoroughly reliable.

Nurses' Linen-finished Aprons, perfect shape, reinforced pockets, 3/11 each; many years' wear.

Nurses' Ambulance Overalls, 6/11 each.

Nurses' Caps, 10½d, Collars, 6½d, 7½d, Cuffs, 6½d, 8½d, Strings, 10½d, 1/- pair.

Nurses' Sister Dora Caps, 8½d, 10½d, 1/- each.

Ladies' Linen H.S. Handkerchiefs, 2/6, 3/6, 4/6 half-dozen.

CARRIAGE PAID ON 10/- PARCELS.

Robinson's Linen Warehouses Ltd.,
5 & 7, Barton Square, St. Ann's Square, MANCHESTER.
Telephone: 1,000 City.
Also Southport and Preston.

THE
BEST CORSET BODICE
for WOMEN WORKERS
NURSES, MUNITION MAKERS, GARDENERS, Etc.
Adequate support WITHOUT bones
Made in two qualities to customers' own measurements.
Mosquito Netting - 9/6 } Post free
Drill - - - 8/6 }
Send Bust, Waist, Hips, and D to E.
Cash with order.
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HORNSEY, LONDON, N.

I BUY FALSE TEETH.

Have you any? I will pay 6d. for each tooth pinned on vulcanite, 2s. each on silver, 3s. on gold, 8s. on platinum. Cash immediately. Satisfaction guaranteed or teeth returned promptly. Write for my FREE BOOKLET, which explains clearly the value of any artificial teeth. I also buy old gold and silver jewellery (broken or otherwise). Full value given. Write for PRICE LIST. Kindly mention Common Cause. E. L[illegible] CO., 29, London-st., Southport, Lancs. Est. [illegible]

Estd. 1895. **WICKS'** Estd. 1895.
V. A. D. and WAR WORKERS' CORSETS
For Hospital Work, Nursing, Riding, Gardening, Motor Driving, and ordinary wear in comfort.
Selection sent on Approval.
Usual Trade References.
Hundreds of Testimonials from all parts of the Globe.
10/11, 11/9, & 13/9
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40	3 0	8 6	16 0

All advertisements should be addressed to The Manager, The Common Cause Publishing Co., Ltd., 14, Great Smith-st., Westminster, and must be received not later than first post Wednesday.

FOR SALE.

FOR SALE.—Valuable Freehold Farm, 46 acres. Farmhouse, excellent buildings, cottage, and greenhouse; about 400 choice fruit trees; good gravel pits. One mile from station, 5 minutes church and post. Illness cause of disposal; early possession; great bargain.—Apply Mrs. Merry West, Roundshill Farm, Bracknell, Berks.

FOR THE LAND.

WANTED.—A woman, immediately, to milk two cows and help in garden; live out.—Mrs. Monro, The Elms, Faringdon, Berks.

POSITIONS VACANT.

RELIABLE working housekeeper required, April 15th; two in family; must understand vegetarian cooking.—Apply Mrs. Rose, The Chestnuts, Grosvenor-road East, St. Albans.

WAR WORK.—Wanted, a good, strong woman, to replace odd man in country house where the domestic staff is principally ladies.—Box 6,361, Common Cause Office.

WANTED.—Lady Housemaid, for country house where lady servants kept.—Box 6,143, Common Cause Office.

WANTED, a Lady Cook who has had experience in catering for a household of about 10.—Apply Miss Baker, Badminton House, Clifton, Bristol.

GARDENING.

GARDENING FOR WOMEN.—Essentially practical training to suit present crisis; vegetable, fruit, and flower culture, fruit bottling and jam making; healthy out-door life; individual consideration; long or short courses.—Illustrated prospectus of Peake-Ridley, Udimore, near Rye, Sussex.

LANGUAGES.

TEACHER OF RUSSIAN REQUIRED.—Six months' engagement.—Apply, stating qualifications, to T. Wintringham, Little Grimsby Hall, near Louth, Lincs.

FOR INFANT WELFARE.

MARLBOROUGH SCHOOL OF MOTHER CRAFT. President, Duchess of Marlborough. Residential training with resident babies for Health Visitors and Voluntary Workers. Three, five, or nine months' course, according to previous experience. Specialised training in all modern methods of Hygiene and Physiological Feeding.—Apply to the Director, 29-31, Trebovir-road, Earl's Court, S.W.

THE BETTERMENT BOOK ROOM,
40B, ROSSLYN HILL, HAMPSTEAD, N.W.
DEMONSTRATIONS IN MEATLESS COOKERY,
Every TUESDAY, at 3 P.M.
COURSE OF SIX LESSONS, 5s.

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FURNITURE and all Woodwork can be dusted and polished at the same time by the Ayah Wonder Mitten Duster. Protects the hands and reaches every nook and corner. Antiseptic, absorbing, polishing. Price 2/4, post free.—The Pioneer Manufacturing Co., 21, Paternoster-sq., W.C.

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Continued from page 691]

WAR-TIME CARPENTRY.

WOMAN War-Time Carpenter and House Decorator. —Electrical and all odd-job repairs undertaken. —32, Beaufort-st., Chelsea. Kensington 4707 (messages taken).

MEDICAL.

OPEN AIR CURE.—Doctor's daughter offers Educational Nursing Home to few children. Detached house, Surrey; large grounds, pines surrounding. Montessori methods; teacher of physical culture; resident hospital nurse. Medical and other references. Terms: 3 guineas weekly.—"Tuberculosis," Box 6,565, Common Cause Office.

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MOTORING.

TRAIN FOR MOTOR TRANSPORT or PRIVATE DRIVING at the BORTHWICK GARAGE, 8, BRICK STREET, PICCADILLY.

Special Combination Course for 52s. 6d. of 30 hours practical mechanical work, 11 Lectures and 3 Driving lessons weekly. 5740 Mayfair.

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Instruction and Training for Educated Women.
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Special Course of One Year's Practical and Theoretical Instruction in Accounting. Terms on application.

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MRS. WOOD-SMITH, M.P.S., Chemist, coaches women students for the Apothecaries Hall Dispensers Examination.—Apply 9, Blenheim-rd., Bedford-pk., W.

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MR. CHODWICK BROWN, Surgeon Dentist,
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Gas Administered Daily by Qualified Medical Man.
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WANTED

A LADY wishes to find comfortable Apartments—or to share a flat with another lady—in the West End. Use of piano essential.—Apply Miss Baker, Badminton House, Clifton, Bristol.

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HOSTEL for Lady Workers, Students, and Visitors; terms moderate, by day or week; convenient for all parts.—Miss Sullivan, 59, Albany-st. Regent's Park (Portland-rd. Station).

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